



**MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION
7506 E. INDIAN SCHOOL ROAD
COMMUNITY DESIGN STUDIO - NAVE
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85251
THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2007**

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT:

Art DeCabooter, Chair
Joan Fudala, Commissioner
Rand Hubbell, Commissioner
Virginia Korte, Commissioner (departed at 5:48 p.m.)
Gerry Miller, Commissioner
Arnold Roy, Commissioner
Tom Silverman, Commissioner
Linda Whitehead, Commissioner
Solange Whitehead, Commissioner (arrived at 5:24 p.m.)

ABSENT:

Erik Filsinger, Vice-Chair
Melinda Gulick, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:

Bob Cafarella, Director
Don Meserve, Preservation Planner
Claire Miller, McDowell Sonoran Preserve Manager
Lisa Gurtler, Financial Services
Jim Ford, Deputy Fire Chief
Lt. Tony Gibson, Scottsdale Police department
Lt. John Cervantes, Scottsdale Police department

ALSO PRESENT:

Carla, McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, Executive Director
Ruthie Carll, McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, Managing Director
Dan Gruber

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairman DeCabooter called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

Roll call and introductions indicated members and guests present as stated above.

2. **Approval of February 1, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

Chair DeCabooter noted that the minutes should reflect that Commissioner Solange Whitehead arrived late, not Commissioner Linda Whitehead.

COMMISSIONER KORTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 1, 2007 MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION MEETING AS AMENDED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LINDA WHITEHEAD, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF NINE (9) TO ZERO (0).

3. **Public Safety Activities in the Planned Preserve**

Lt. Gibson introduced Lt. Cervantes and reported that Lt. Cervantes would supervise a Preserve Unit consisting of a sergeant and six officers. The plan is to hire the sergeant for the Unit first. Currently service calls to the Preserve are holding steady from previous years. Efforts are being made to improve the ability to capture calls specific to trail locations and parking lots. Newly provided maps proved their value during a recent search and rescue operation.

Commissioner Linda Whitehead addressed the numerous motor vehicle offenses taking place in the area of 136th Street, north of Dynamite. She inquired how cooperation between volunteers and the Preserve Unit could be improved, and if the Unit would be able to focus resources during the weekend hours when the most intensive use occurs. Lt. Gibson responded that the Police and Fire Departments have met with Clair Miller to determine ways to improve communications and response times. The Preserve Unit will likely be out during weekend hours depending on the time of year and the location in question. In response to Commissioner Linda Whitehead's further inquiry, Lt. Gibson responded that the Unit would use ATVs, bicycles and horses.

Commissioner Linda Whitehead also inquired about the Preserve Unit's budget restraints. Lt. Gibson said the Unit is fully funded and the hiring of employees is the only current restraint.

Deputy Chief Fire Marshal Ford reported that the southwestern deserts area is expected to have a higher than normal fire season threat again. A preparedness level plan has been created for different times of the year, outlining primary issues to be addressed during those periods.

The new maps will be very useful during the upcoming fire season and are a great improvement over the old maps. Training will be provided to stewards and the homeowners associations to provide them with information on what to do in the event of a wildfire. The Wildland Support Group will also do patrols on the weekends.

There has been a lot of interest in the invasive weeds project. A public education campaign is planned in the near future.

Deputy Chief Ford responded to an inquiry from Commissioner Linda Whitehead saying the Fire Department had all the resources it needed to meet its objectives for the Preserve.

4. **State Land Reform Approach**

Carla reported that Rep. Nelson introduced HCR bill 2039 to the Legislature. The bill would allow communities to purchase land at fair market value that had already been reclassified before the Arizona Preserve Initiative (API) was put on hold, pending a vote of the people and an enabling act change. However, since the bill does not include communities that did not have a chance to go through the API process, it has stalled in the Senate. Discussions are underway with Rep. Nelson and Sen. Carolyn Allen to amend the bill to only address urban and ex-urban lands that would be eligible for API.

Commissioner Roy inquired about the status of the Suncor state land acquisition application. Carla responded that the issue is at a stalemate.

5. **McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Activities**

Ms. Carll said with the recent graduating Stewardship class, there are currently 181 confirmed active stewards.

The Bike Patrol has expressed interest in conducting more complete patrols by splitting up duties based on trail difficulty and rider skill.

The Conservancy is working with the Preservation staff on plans for a two-mile trail project situated on City land in the DC Ranch area that borders the Preserve.

6. **Noxious Plant Removal/Awareness Program**

Commissioner Miller summarized the recommended actions of the Noxious Plant Removal/Awareness Program. Copies of a PowerPoint presentation were distributed. Scottsdale's invasive weeds plan is possibly the first in Arizona. Work is also being coordinated with the Fire Department to educate Scottsdale residents about the invasive weeds issue.

The plan recommends:

- setting the goal of returning the Preserve to a state approximating that prior to rapid development in the Phoenix area.
- establishing a noxious weed list specific to the City of Scottsdale, that contains eight weeds listed in order of priority: Buffel Grass, Fountain Grass, Saharan Mustard, Tamarisk, Malta Starthistle, Desert Broom, Bermuda Grass and Red Brome Grass.
- that the City of Scottsdale rigorously enforce the requirements of the Environmental Sensitivity and Landscape Ordinance (ESLO).
- adopting a policy for herbicide use as directed in the plan.
- conducting periodic surveys and monitoring, and preparing an annual progress report.

- using volunteer labor to implement the program as much as possible.
- pursuing cooperative agreements with Preserve neighbors.
- conducting education programs for Scottsdale citizens.
- pursuing weed-free hay and carry no seeds programs within the Preserve at an educational level.
- holding contractors responsible for ensuring that soils brought in to the Preserve are kept clean.
- supporting cooperative activities with professionals in the weed biology field.

Commissioner Miller responded to Commissioner Solange Whitehead's inquiry by saying Fountain Grass was the noxious plant most often introduced by neighboring landscaping practices by homeowners.

Mr. Cafarella said some of the items in the plan might return to the Commission for action before going to the City Council, while many other items can be implemented immediately.

COMMISSIONER MILLER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE NOXIOUS PLANT REMOVAL/AWARENESS PLAN. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HUBBELL, THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED BY A VOTE OF EIGHT (8) TO ZERO (0).

7. **DDC Task Force Members**

Chair DeCabooter appointed Commissioners Silverman and Gulick to represent the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission on the DDC Task Force.

8. **Preserve Director's Report**

Mr. Cafarella said he would provide the Director's report by e-mail.

9. **Preserve Manager's Report**

Mr. Cafarella said Ms. Miller would provide the Preserve Manager's report by e-mail.

10. **Future Executive Session for McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission**

COMMISSIONER FUDALA MOVED TO HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON APRIL 5, 2007, TO DISCUSS AND CONSULT WITH ROBERT CAFARELLA, THE COMMISSION'S DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE, TO CONSIDER THE COMMISSION'S POSITION AND INSTRUCT ITS REPRESENTATIVE WITH RESPECT TO THE PURCHASE, SALE OR LEASE

FOR INCLUSION IN THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE RECOMMENDED STUDY BOUNDARY FOR THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE STATE TRUST LAND THAT IS RECLASSIFIED AS SUITABLE FOR CONSERVATION UNDER THE ARIZONA PRESERVE INITIATIVE, AND THE STATE TRUST LAND THAT IS NOT RECLASSIFIED AS SUITABLE FOR CONSERVATION UNDER THE ARIZONA PRESERVE INITIATIVE. ARS 38-431.03 (A) (3) and (A) (7). THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MILLER AND CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF EIGHT (8) TO ZERO (0).

11. **Commissioner Comments and Public Comments**

There were no comments.

12. **Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

Mr. Cafarella said Commissioners could send agenda items to him.

13. **Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, and no need for an executive session, the meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
A/V Tronics, Inc.